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SC STAYS HC ORDER, KEEPS CoA OUT OF IOA

Supreme Court asks all stakeholders to put on hold Delhi HC order that directed Committee of Administrators to take over the Indian Olympic Association

IOA MOVES SC

The IOA approached the Supreme Court on Thursday and asked them to look into the matter because CoA taking charge of the association could attract suspension from the International Olympic Committee, which had already issued a warning last month

SG BATS FOR IOA

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta representing Centre, also briefed the SC. "The IOA is a unit of the IOC and they have their own rules and according to them, if any national-level body like IOA is represented by a non-elected body then it is treated as a third party interference," he said

CAUTION AFTER FIFA

After what happened with AIFF, the sports ministry is understood to be uncomfortable that IOA, the mother organisation of all Olympic sports in the country, too, could be banned. It would lead to further embarrassment at the global stage with IOC session in Mumbai mid-next year

WHAT SC SAID

After hearing the pleas, in the best interest of the country, the court said, "We are informed that charge of the IOA has not been handed over to the CoA so far. In view of the serious concerns raised in the matter, we direct the parties to maintain status quo."

MONDAY D-DAY FOR INDIAN SPORTS

- The Delhi HC has said that all sports federations should follow its Tuesday order, which means that the sports ministry need to take a re-look at the present Sports Code and update accordingly
- The ministry through various affidavits has been saying that it had granted recognition after making sure the federations adhered to sports code. In fact it's a condition for annual renewal of recognition
- Monday is when the SC will hear FIFA ban on AIFF case as well | P19

2012-14

WHEN IOA WAS SUSPENDED BY IOC

The IOC has warned this time, too, that in case IOA doesn't conduct polls as per old constitution, it could face the same fate

Power min pulls spot market plug from 13 states

Andhra, TN, Telangana, Karnataka among penalised states following mounting dues

RAKESH KUMAR @ New Delhi

THE Union power ministry on Thursday barred 13 states from buying or selling electricity from the spot market for not clearing dues of ₹5,085 crore to power generators. This is the first time the Power System Operation Corporation (POSOCO), a body of the power ministry, invoked the Electricity (Late Payment Surcharge and Related Matters) Rules, 2022 to bar discoms from alternative short-term sources.

Power distribution companies (discoms) of four states in the south — Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Karnataka — are among those on the ban list.

The Electricity (Late Payment Surcharge and Related Matters) Rules, 2022, which was notified this June mandates discoms to pay late payment surcharge (LPS) on the outstanding amount after the due date of payment. The rate of late payment surcharge for the successive months of default will increase by 0.5% for every month of delay, provided the late payment surcharge will not be more than 3% higher than the base rate at any time. Any further delay would invoke penalty provisions, including a complete ban on buying short-term power from the spot market and thereafter regulation of medium-term and long-term power supply.

State	Dues (₹ cr)
Andhra Pradesh	413
Tamil Nadu	926
Telangana	1381
Manipur	30
Mizoram	17
Karnataka	355
Bihar	174
Rajasthan	501
Jharkhand	215
J&K	435
Madhya Pradesh	229
Maharashtra	382
Chhattisgarh	27.5

Source: POSOCO

However, power experts called the action of POSOCO one-sided. The chairman of All India Power Engineers Federation Shailendra Dubey said Posoco is implementing provisions of Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2022, which has been referred to the Standing Committee and could not be passed in the Lok Sabha.

"State governments owe ₹76,000 crore on account of subsidy and ₹67,000 crore on account of the government departments' electricity dues. If this ₹1,43,000 crore is paid by respective state governments to discoms, then discoms will pay dues of gencos," said Dubey.

Tangedco to release ₹228 crore on Saturday

A top official said Tangedco has to pay ₹228 crore to the spot market and the due will be released on Saturday. Currently, Tangeco procures 10 million units from the spot market every day.

The damaged boat (left) found off the Raigad coast on Thursday morning; and a box containing AK-47 rifles and bullets retrieved from the vessel | PTI

DUBAI SELLER CONFIRMS AK SERIAL NUMBERS

A Coast Guard official said the AKs were procured from a Dubai-based Privately Contracted Armed Maritime Security (PCAMS) company. When contacted, PCAMS confirmed that the serial numbers of the weapons found onboard match with the ones from their inventory. The boat was registered in the UK

Maha flutter as boat with AK-47s, ammo beaches; no terror angle yet

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

A damaged 16-metre boat with AK 47 rifles and bullets and another tub with life jackets that beached at Harihareshwar and Shrivardhan respectively in Konkan on Friday created a flutter, putting Maharashtra on high alert ahead of the festival season.

However, no terror angle was found during preliminary investigations.

Local fishermen were the first to spot the boat at Harihareshwar, which had three AK-47s and 225 bullets. The other life boat had life jackets and other materials. It was found near the shore of Bharadkhol in Shrivardhan.

Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, who is also the home minister, informed the state Assembly that the boat found at Harihareshwar is owned by an Australian national, Hana Lordgan. "The police found three assault rifles and ammunition besides documents related to the boat named Lady Han. Hana's husband James Hobert was the captain of the boat that was going to Europe from Muscat, the capital of Oman."

Its engine failed around 10 am on June 26 this year. "After a distress call, a Korean warship rescued its sailors at 1 pm the same day and handed them over to Oman. Lady Han could not be towed as the sea was rough, so it was abandoned. It started drifting and finally reached Harihareshwar due to the sea's undercurrent, Fadnavis said.

He added that the Coast Guard and other relevant agencies have been put on alert. Both the police and the anti-terrorist squad are probing it from all angles. "As of now, there is no terror angle. Probe is on," he added.

The Neptune Maritime Security Ltd issued a statement saying it provided private security on the vessel in June. The boat was damaged during monsoon. While the crew was rescued, the vessel was abandoned and presumed sunk till it showed up in India.

Health screening, counselling at doorstep of rural poor across state

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @ Bengaluru

THE state government has decided to take health screening, including mental health, to all the villages across the state. Launched under the Gram Panchayat Arogya Amrita Abhiyaana initiative, health screening will be done at work sites in villages. Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR) department has issued a detailed circular in this regard.

The scheme is currently operational in over 2,800 gram panchayats in 14 districts in collaboration with Karnataka Health Promotion Trust (KHPT). Under the scheme, ASHA workers, who will be given medical kits, will visit various places in rural areas including MNREGA work sites, milk union cooperative societies, schools and work places of self-help groups where women assemble in large numbers. The target group will be tested for anaemia, non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and lifestyle diseases like BP, diabetes malnutrition and mental health. The campaign will be extended to 6,000 gram panchayats across the state.

Uma Mahadevan Dasgupta, Principal Secretary, RDPR department, said the initiative was launched as a pilot projects in 14 districts last year which is being expanded. "For mental health, we have partnered with KHPT whose mental health helplines will do the initial assessment and counselling and depending on the need, the patients will be referred to the district mental health team," she said. Uma pointed out that it is the first programme of its kind where micro-planning and organising capabilities of the gram panchayats (which they displayed during the Covid-19 pandemic) will be decentralised for carrying out health screening to the work sites of the rural poor."

Speaking to *TNIE*, L K Ateeq, Additional Chief Secretary, RDPR department said the very purpose of this initiative is to reach out to every individual in rural areas and create awareness about lifestyle diseases too. Ateeq said they are involving ASHA workers who will be trained to detect and refer.

SIDDU GHERAOED

The car of former CM Siddaramaiah gheraoed by protesters at Thithimathi in Kodagu on Thursday. Protesters from the BJP and Congress threw eggs at each other, over Siddaramaiah's remarks on VD Savarkar | EXPRESS | P4

MHA WANTED TO SHIFT ROHINGYA

CHANDAN NANDY @ New Delhi

EVEN as the Union home ministry on Thursday denied giving any direction to provide EWS (economically weaker section) flats to Rohingya illegal migrants, moves to resettle at least 250 of them at Bakkarwala in West Delhi were in the works since at least March 2021.

A series of correspondence between the Home Police-II department of the Government of National Capital Territory (GNCT) of Delhi and the NDMC Chairman indicate that attempts were made to move a section of Rohingya living at Shahzada Bagh and Lampur to "suitable accommodation for permanent restriction centre for foreign inmates at Bakkarwala village" since June 2021. A copy of a letter is in the possession of this newspaper.

The letter reveals that the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO), which is under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), itself had requested the GNCT Home Department and the NDMC to "allot the Baraat Ghar along with all EWS flats, Bakkarwala Village, Delhi, to them to accommodate the foreign inmates, along with basic minimum housing facilities". This, sources said, referred to Rohingya migrants.

The June 2021 letter was followed by at least two more meetings between the MHA, Delhi government officials and senior police officers in January and July 2022. In both meetings, the police officers pushed keeping the 250 Rohingya at one place for effective surveillance.

The Delhi Home Department letter of June 23, 2021, reveals that plans were afoot to "restrict the movement of foreign inmates" at Shahzada Bagh and Lampur. On February 21 last year, a "joint inspection with representatives of (the) social welfare department" was made to "search for a suitable accommodation for (a) permanent restriction centre for foreign inmates at Bakkarwala village, Delhi." The site had almost 240 flats built under EWS category and owned by the NDMC.

JET FUEL HIKED

Windfall tax on diesel export up, ATF levy back

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

INDIA on Thursday hiked the windfall profit tax on export of diesel and brought back the tax on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF). According to a notification of the finance ministry, the excise duty on export of diesel was increased to ₹7 per litre from ₹5 per litre.

The duty on jet fuel was hiked to ₹2 from nil. However, the ministry cut cess on domestically produced crude to ₹13,000 from ₹17,750. Also, there is no excise duty on the export of petrol.

In July last, the government, in a bid to regulate fuel prices, decided to raise excise duty (on export) by ₹6 per litre on ATF, ₹6 per litre on petrol and ₹13 per litre on diesel.

It had also decided to levy a cess of ₹23,250 per tonne on export of crude.

ORIGIN OF THE LEVY

It came in after big firms made huge profits from exporting oil after sourcing crude from Russia

NATIONWIDE	AUG 17	AUG 18
Fresh cases	9,062	12,608
Recoveries	15,220	16,251
Deaths	36	72
KARNATAKA	AUG 17	AUG 18
Fresh cases	886	2,329
Recoveries	1,999	1,782
Deaths	3	4

JAB-O-METER

TAKE YOUR SHOT

August 17: 35,15,184 doses

August 18: 25,82,101 doses

TOTAL DOSES: 2,09,23,14,643

2 departments lock horns over auction of government school

DONNA EVA @ Bengaluru

THE Department of School Education and Literacy has decided to approach the court against the Revenue Department's move to auction a 77-year-old government school in Bengaluru.

Established in 1945, the Government High School, housed in Rajatha Complex in Chickpet, provides education to around 85 students and is likely to be sold to a private company.

In 1979, the building was given on lease to a private firm, Rajatha Enterprises. The company built a complex on the premises and gave the ground floor to commercial shops and the first floor to the school.

The 77-year-old Government High School, housed in Rajatha Complex in Chickpet, in Bengaluru | EXPRESS

Following the expiry of the lease in June 2021, the company approached the Revenue Department offering to buy the building following which officials from the department appraised the value of the property. The Education Department took note of the issue when the Revenue Department refused to register the property in the name of the school. The Education Department, which made several appeals, is now likely to move court.

According to a letter written by the Commissioner for Public Instruction, R Vishal, the land belongs to the Education Department as a government school is currently operating from the building, though the Revenue Department originally owned the land. "We are planning to approach the court and seek an interim order," Vishal told *TNIE*. P2

EXPRESS READ

Wakf Board for Eid Milad in schools

After Education Minister BC Nagesh hinted at allowing Ganesha Chaturthi in schools, the Wakf Board chief has pitched for allowing Eid Milad celebrations in schools as well. P4

Hebbal flyover: BDA revises plan

A signal-free route from K R Puram towards airport & linking of K R Puram with existing flyover from Tumakuru to the city are two changes proposed by BDA in its revised plan for Hebbal flyover. P2

CONVICTION SET ASIDE

Small differences in marriage fine, HC advises woman

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

DISMISSING as 'trivial' the charges made by a woman against her husband and her mother-in-law, the Karnataka High Court set aside the conviction of the two by a trial court, giving them relief in the case.

The trial court had convicted the husband and his mother in September 2013 for offences punishable under Section 498-A (read with Section 34 of IPC and Section 3 and 4 of Dowry Prohibition Act). The sessions court upheld the conviction in December 2016 by dismissing the appeal filed by the two.

Differences in the customs and rituals between husband and wife belonging to two sects of the same caste are trivial issues which do not amount to harassment or cruelty under Section 498-A of IPC, the Karnataka High Court said, while setting aside the conviction.

Justice H B Prabhakara Sastry passed the order while allowing the petitions filed by the husband and his mother who questioned the order of conviction.

"Both wife and husband appear to have given undue importance to their stay in the United States of America...They have forgotten that the family is a unique unit in a society and mutual understanding among the members in a family would not only help in achieving their goals and purpose, but would also help in promoting happiness in the family, thus building a healthy society. Small and minor likes and dislikes, differences, would be common in most of the families, which the family members are required to cope with, adjust, tolerate, enjoy and maintain good atmosphere with love, affection, mutual respect and good health in the family. However, the wife appears to be too sensitive in magnifying several trivial aspects into big issues which has ultimately resulted in the present case," the court said.

The court also said that the complainant failed to establish that there was any demand from the accused for dowry or that they have accepted or taken any dowry. Besides raising other "trivial issues", the wife also complained that on the very first night of their marriage, her husband told her that he does not want to have a child for about three years, and that he would think about it after completion of his MS degree.

POOJARY GETS RELIEF IN MURDER CASE

A special court on Thursday acquitted notorious gangster Ravi Poojary in the murder case of 'Builder' Subbaraju, which took place in 2001, citing lack of evidence | P3

WITH THIS ISSUE

CITY'S BEST WEEKEND GUIDE

INDULGE

36 PAGES, INCLUDING 16 OF INDULGE (TABLOID)